

Metro-Boston Homeland Security
Fire Service Sub-Committee
& Boston EMS

Proposal for:

PER240: WMD Radiological / Nuclear
Responder Operations Course

Submitted By:

UASI Fire Sub-Committee & Boston EMS

Date: August 29th, 2005

UASI Fire Sub-Committee Chairman
Chief David Butler (Everett Fire Dept.)

Boston Emergency Medical Services
Chief Richard Serino

Name of Organizations Submitting Proposal:

Boston Fire Department and Boston EMS, on behalf of the Metro-Boston UASI Region.

Other Participating Organizations:

The Fire Departments of Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop, Massport Fire* (*out of a separate funding stream), and the Del Valle Institute for Emergency Preparedness

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Project Objective:

The purpose of this proposal is to provide designated Metro-Boston Homeland Security Region fire, Boston EMS, and Del Valle Institute personnel with training in the ODP course PER 240: WMD Radiological Nuclear Responder Operations (*See Attached Course Description*). This training would build upon the AWR140: WMD Radiological Nuclear Awareness course that is currently being delivered to all fire personnel in the UASI region, and which will be delivered to selected Boston EMS and Del Valle personnel in the upcoming month.

A. Project Narrative:

The UASI Fire Subcommittee has agreed that the region should pursue operations level training for designated companies from all nine jurisdictions. In addition, Boston EMS has identified radiological operations level training for designated members of its staff as a department need. In accordance with these corresponding identified needs, this proposal is being submitted jointly by the UASI Fire Subcommittee and Boston EMS.

The PER240 course would provide those trained with critical operational knowledge and skills on how to function within a zone that has been contaminated with radiological material(s). These skills include: Distinguishing between different levels of radiation; Proper operation of detection equipment; How to properly identify, triage, treat, and psychologically support contaminated patients; Donning/doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in a radiological/nuclear environment, and; Radiological decontamination for responders and the public. This type of hands on, operational knowledge is especially critical for first responders that would be expected to work and handle patients/victims within a radiological hot or warm zone.

This particular training course is being proposed as a joint initiative between the fire service and EMS disciplines on the basic reflection of the need for the two disciplines to work together given any emergency scenario involving radioactive hazardous materials. Firefighters, who will most likely be responding to the scene of a hazardous materials event or a potential WMD radiological/nuclear event, will be expected to conduct operations within the warm and hot zones of the incident. Training is needed for fire personnel on how to operate within this environment.

To maximize potential for this training, the Fire Committee also plans to establish protocol for a regional radiological response team. The Chiefs of the fire departments comprising the MBHSR would utilize this asset by implementing a running-card system, similar to what is currently used by Metro Fire for providing mutual aid assistance. This improvised system would provide a way for jurisdictions to signal a radiological incident to one another, and allow them to provide mutual aid to one another in an organized and efficient manner.

EMS responders will also be responding to an incident involving radiological substances. While the primary responsibility of EMS would not involve entering the hot zone, EMS first responders would be expected to provide emergency medical assistance and treatment to victims in the warm and cold zones of an incident. Additionally, EMS personnel will provide critical medical support to the fire personnel operating in the warm and hot zones. Understanding that environment and its hazards is critical for providing effective care to the first responders working in those zones. The efficiency and effectiveness of any EMS operation within this environment will be contingent on the EMS first responders' ability to operate within the same environment. Active triage, treatment, and transport of patients will depend upon the ability to identify, understand and operate within a radiological scenario, including proper use of personal protective equipment and the ability to measure the level of contamination first responders would be dealing with in responding to the event.

The Del Valle Institute has identified four personnel in its department that it would like to see trained in this course as well. There will be no cost associated with their participation that will need to be supported with homeland security funding, as they will be sent to the course as part of their normal work days.

This course was delivered to selected companies of the Boston Fire Department in February of 2005, and it received very positive feedback in terms of its practicality and usefulness in the field.

Once training is completed, it would be the responsibility of each participating agency to develop a sustainability plan for its personnel that would provide the necessary recertification as required by ODP.

Course Delivery:

The strategy for course delivery is to hold three, 3-day/24-hour courses, over the course of 4-6 weeks to accommodate approximately 230 students. The delivery of the course will be dependent upon the availability of the Bechtel Nevada team, the certified ODP instructors for this course. Current discussions with the Bechtel Nevada team indicate that the earliest delivery dates that can be scheduled are in January of 2006. Each class would consist of approximately 60-75 students (depending on Bechtel), and will be delivered at a site location to be determined within the MBHSR (most likely the Bayside Expo Center). Bechtel would bring enough staff to divide each large class into two separate groups during the hands-on, operational segments. We plan to integrate each class with representatives from as many agencies as possible, a goal that has the strong endorsement of the Bechtel providers.

Timeline:

September 2005	Receive approval / rejection notice from the MBOHS
September 2005	Completion of AWR 140: WMD / Radiological Nuclear Awareness course by all regional fire service personnel and selected BEMS personnel.
January 2006	Instruction by Bechtel Nevada ODP Training Team begins
February 2006	Completion of Radiological Operations Training

B. Alignment with the Metro Boston Regional Homeland Security Plan

“Preparedness” refers to the existence of plans, procedures, policies, training, and equipment necessary at the Federal, State, and Local level to maximize the ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events involving acts of terrorism, natural disasters or other emergencies. This proposal supports the multi-discipline and discipline specific local awareness and operational training needs of first responders to respond to incidents involving WMD as outlined by our Metro Boston Regional Homeland Security Plan. The training initiative outlined within this proposal will fall under Project C of the Regional Homeland Security Plan. The planning, development, and implementation of interdisciplinary and discipline-specific homeland security trainings will benefit the security of the region as a whole, as the fire service and EMS disciplines strive to prepare their first responders in how to operate within emergency environments requiring their assistance in mitigating and recovering from majoring incidents. Both the fire service and EMS disciplines have examined and assessed their current training situations, and recognized the need for their first responders to learn how to effectively operate within the hot and cold environments of an emergency incident involving radiological hazardous materials. Both disciplines have also carefully considered who within each of their disciplines will receive what level of training and when this training will tentatively occur. In order to maintain cooperativeness and respect for what each responder does in any given situation, both the fire and EMS disciplines hope to conduct this training across organizational and cultural barriers, in order

to gain a better understanding of what is expected of each other in the event that this training would have to be utilized (COMS G3; BUA G1-03, G1-07, CRITICAL; ALL; G1-O3-aIS#1).

C. Budget Proposals:

The UASI sponsored portion of the training cost will be approximately **\$268,522.50**. (see *budget spreadsheets attached*). This figure accounts for all the overtime and backfill costs associated with course attendance, as well as the estimated costs for facility rental and lunches for approximately 250 students (to provide some extras) over a 3-day course. Training and course materials are delivered at no cost by Bechtel Nevada.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
#	Item Description	Total Item Cost	Organizational Contribution	Requested MBHSR Contribution	Other Funding Sources Contribution	Fund Discrepancies (C-D-E-F)
1	UASI Fire Personnel Training	\$208,570.50	n/a	\$208,570.50	n/a	
2	Boston EMS Training	\$59,952.00	n/a	\$59,952.00	n/a	
3	Del Valle Training	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
4	Facility Rental (x 15 days)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
5	Lunches (250x3)	\$11,250	n/a	\$11,250	n/a	
Total		\$268,522.50		\$268,522.50		

D. Budget Narrative:

Personnel (See Attached Excel Spreadsheet) – This budget indicates the estimated costs associated with training one (1) fire company* from each of the nine (9) UASI member jurisdictions, as well as 60 personnel from Boston EMS. There is no cost associated with the attendance of the Del Valle personnel, and the participating Massport Fire personnel will be covered out of a separate funding stream provided by the Executive Office of Public Safety.

The estimated 30 hours of overtime for each student is based upon three 10-hour backfill shifts being paid out by each fire department to maintain company strength. The town of Chelsea is allocated 36 hours per student, as its contract stipulates that 12 hours be paid for any training equal to or exceeding 6 hours. For Boston EMS, 8 hours of backfill/overtime has been allotted for.

Facility – The facility is being provided free of charge by the Bayside Expo Center.

Lunches – The estimated lunch costs are based upon menus received by the Boston Culinary Group, the selected vendor of the Bayside Expo Center. The cost is based upon the purchase of 750 lunches (250 personnel multiplied by the 3 day course) at \$15 per person. The \$15 represents the approximate cost of a boxed lunch (\$11.95), plus an 18% Event Management Fee and a 5% Massachusetts Meal Tax (*See Attached Meal Menu*).

If this part of the budget is not approved, there are multiple food outlets nearby that the students could go to during the lunch hour. Breakfast costs are covered by Bechtel Nevada.

All other costs associated with course delivery (i.e. Trainers, Course Materials, Course Equipment, etc., are covered by Bechtel Nevada).

**Note:* A company is comprised of 20 personnel, consisting of 1 ranking officer, 3 subordinate officers, and 16 firefighters. Costs have also been added for the inclusion of 1 Deputy Chief from each department to be trained.